

NEWS RELEASE

Eric Melgren, U.S. Attorney

Contact: Jim Cross

(316) 269-6481

Headquarters 1200 Epic Center 301 N. Main Wichita, Kansas 67202 (316)269-6481 FAX (316)269-6484

Topeka Office 444 Quincy Topeka, Kansas 66683

Kansas City Office 500 State Avenue Suite 360 Kansas City, Kansas 66101

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

News releases are available at www.usdoj.gov/usao/ks/

Dec. 27, 2004

JASON COODY APPOINTED SPECIAL ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

TOPEKA, KAN. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced today that **Jason R. Coody** has accepted a position as a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney in the United States Attorney's office in Topeka.

Coody, whose position will be funded by Project Safe Neighborhoods, will prosecute federal crimes involving firearms. Project Safe Neighborhoods is a nationwide federal program aimed at reducing gun crime. It targets violent drug offenders and career criminals who possess a firearm in the commission of a crime or illegally possess a firearm after a felony conviction.

Coody, who lives in Topeka, has been an Assistant District Attorney in Shawnee County since December 2002. As a member of the Family Law Division, he has specialized in prosecuting domestic violence cases. He also has worked as an Assistant City Attorney in Topeka and a police officer in Valdosta, Ga. He is a 2002 graduate of Washburn University School of Law and a 1996 graduate of Valdosta State University.

"We're pleased that Jason is joining us," Melgren said. "Prosecuting gun crimes is a high priority for our office."